

THE CONCISE  
OXFORD DICTIONARY  
OF CURRENT ENGLISH

Edited by  
E. W. FOWLER AND F. G. FOWLER  
based on  
The Oxford Dictionary

FOURTH EDITION

Revised by  
E. MINTO SH



OXFORD  
AT THE CLarendon Press

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WALTER OTTESEN

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## PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

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1956, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960

In this completely revised and reset edition numerous corrections

and additions have been made to bring the book up to date. Thanks are due to the many correspondents who have pointed out

errors or suggested improvements. Especially must I express my gratitude to Dr. Sohols, Dr. Honeyman, and Mr. J. M. Wyllie for

the valuable assistance given for musical terms, chemical terms, and

many technical terms. The officials of the Clarendon Press too, past

and present, have throughout been most helpful.

In this edition the system of pronunciation devised for the *Pocket Oxford Dictionary* has been adopted, the senses have been usually numbered, the general abbreviations have been collected into an appendix, and the swung dash has been freely employed.

Swung dash (~).

To save space the 'swung dash' or 'tilde' is very frequently used in the body of the article or the list of derivatives. It represents either the complete word at the beginning of the article or the uninflected part of that word often marked by a vertical line. As, for example, in the article *repeat*, ~ stands for *repeat* (or *repeated*), ~ed for *repeated*, ~edly for *repeatedly*<sup>2</sup>, ~ing for *repeating*, ~er for *repeater*; and in the article *reverberate* we have ~ating, ~ate, ~atory, ~ation, ~ative, ~ant representing *reverberating*, *reverberate*, *reverberator*, *reverberation*, *reverberative*, *reverberant*.

E. McL., 1950

From the

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

THE publication of the Supplement to the *Oxford English Dictionary* in November 1933 makes important additions to the material which it is the aim of this book, as a dictionary of the living language, to present. Mr H. W. Fowler entrusted me with the preparation of this edition in February 1933, and until his death on the 26th December of that year I had the privilege of his guidance.

H. G. LE MESTER, 1934

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